

Why Pride Causes Me Problems, Part 5 - 1 Corinthians 4:16-17 – September 28th, 2014

- Today's teaching will be part five of a series I've titled, "Why Pride Causes Me Problems."
- Here-to-fore, the Apostle Paul has been bluntly rebuking the carnal Corinthian Christians and in so doing warning them about their pride.
- More specifically, their spiritual pride, and the dangers of this worst form of pride, by virtue of the problems it causes in the Christians life.

1. Pride propels me beyond what's Biblical (Verse 6a)

- We saw this starting with the first part of verse six where Paul warns them of the danger of pride propelling them beyond what is Biblical.

2. Pride deceives me to think I'm better than others (Verse 6b)

- In the second part of verse six he warns them of the danger of pride deceiving them into thinking that they are better than others.

3. Pride causes me to boast in my accomplishments (Verse 7)

- In verse seven he rebukes them and warns them concerning the danger of pride causing them to boast about their accomplishments.

4. Pride makes me think that I'm entitled (Verses 8-9)

- In verses eight and nine he warns them of the danger of pride making them think they're somehow entitled to all God blessed them with.

5. Pride makes me friends with the world (Verses 10-13)

- In verses ten through thirteen, Paul warns them about the danger of pride making them friends with the world.

6. Pride brings me to disgrace and shame (Verses 14-15)

- In verses fourteen and fifteen, which we looked at last week; Paul says he didn't write this to shame them; rather, it was to warn them.

- Enter today's text, and with it the seventh problem that pride causes in my life, which is that of pride rendering me un-teachable.

7. Pride renders me un-teachable (Verses 16-17)

(16) Therefore I urge you to imitate me. (17) For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

-v16-17 Paul urges them to imitate him, then he tells them that he's sending Timothy, his son whom he loves, and who is faithful in the Lord.

- Then he goes on to say Timothy will remind them of Paul's way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what he teaches in every church.

- For the Apostle Paul to say and do this is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is because of what he had just written.

- Namely, in verses 9-13 where he writes that he's regarded as one condemned to die, a spectacle to the whole universe, as fools for Christ.

- If that weren't bad enough he was weak, dishonored, hungry, thirsty, in rags, brutally treated, homeless, cursed, persecuted and slandered.

- As such, he had become the scum of the earth, the rubbish of the entire world and he has the audacity to tell the Corinthians to imitate him.

- Then, he tells them that he's sending a young Timothy to them, so as to teach them, by way of reminding them, of his way of life in Christ.

- One has to wonder what they might be thinking right about now. Are they insulted or convicted and are they teachable or un-teachable?

- I would suggest it's this very question that's before every one of us today, in the sense that does God's Word insult or convict my pride?

- The litmus test by which I can know whether I'm being convicted or insulted will be that of my response being teachable or un-teachable.

- Perhaps better said, if I'm insulted, I'll stiffen my neck and harden my heart, which is full of pride and the result will be that I'm un-teachable.

- Conversely, if I'm convicted instead, I will soften my heart because of my pride, and the result will be that I'll receive it and be teachable.

- If you were to ask me what I thought was one of the main sources of problems in my life, being un-teachable would be at the top of the list.

- Let me explain why, we damage and even destroy all our relationships when others in our life shut down, all because we won't take advice.

- From college and career to marriage and parenting and everything in between ones un-teachable pride has the propensity to destroy them.

Proverbs 16:18 NIV Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 13:10 NIV Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Proverbs 15:31-33 (NIV) 31 Whoever heeds life-giving correction will be at home among the wise. 32 Those who disregard discipline despise themselves, but the one who heeds correction gains understanding. 33 Wisdom's instruction is to fear the LORD, and humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 17:10 (NIV) A rebuke impresses a discerning person more than a hundred lashes a fool.

- Actually, in addition to the question of being insulted or convicted in our pride, there's another question all of us would do well to answer.

- Why am I proud in the first place? What is it about me that I'm so proud of to begin with? Am I taking pride in who I am or what I have?

One commentator asks and answers this ever so aptly this way, "Why should we be proud? What are we proud of? Is it of our bodies? They are "fearfully and wonderfully made," yet dust they are, and unto dust they must return. Is it of our souls? God "breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life, and he became a living soul." Is it of what we are? We are only creatures of a day, and our foundation is in the dust. Is it of what we have? We have nothing, be it worldly wealth, or intellectual endowment, or physical superiority, or spiritual grace, nothing that we have not received. We are pensioners on the Divine bounty, daily recipients of the Divine favor, almoners on the liberality of God."

- I'll close with one last question, and please know it's one for which I ask of myself as well, are my problems caused by being un-teachable?

- If so, could it be that God is allowing the difficulties I'm experiencing because of it in order to create what they call a "teachable moment?"

- Here's a final thought, often times God deems it fit for us to drown in our own difficulties because that's the only way will ever be teachable.